

THE COACH HOUSE



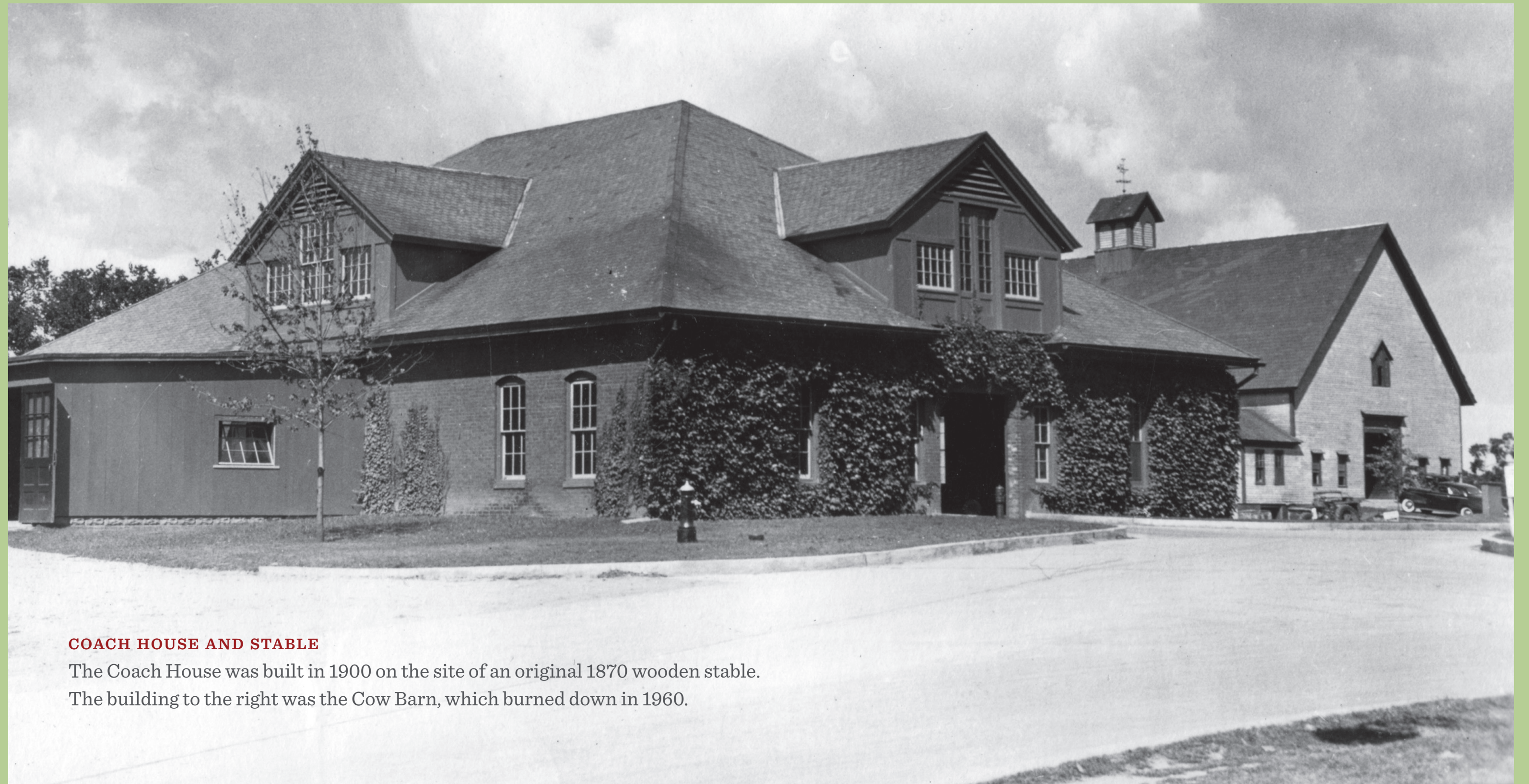
THE COACH HOUSE (also called the horse barn) is the oldest building still standing on the former Hospital grounds. Built in 1900, it sheltered the Hospital's driving horses on the main floor with a hayloft above.

Carriages and farming tools were stored in the basement which was entered through the lower level. The carriages were used to take patients on excursions, often to Mount Tom. In the early 1920s, the Coach House was outfitted for automobiles and their repair.

The Coach House was one of a dozen or more farm and support buildings, most made of brick, clustered behind (west of) the Main Building. During the life of the institution, these were moved, remodeled, repurposed, or torn down.

The Coach House appealed to the makers of the 1999 film *The Cider House Rules*. The building's interior appears as a dormitory for the orphanage in the film. Some spaces in the abandoned "Old Main" building also were used.

Other buildings and structures near the coach house included: the Piggery (area farmers favored the "Hospital breed"), the Poultry House (the Henner), the Farmworkers Building (previously the Storehouse), the Red Barn, the Ox Barn, stone walls surrounding the barnyard, an Equipment Shed, the Spring (or Pump) House, the Wagon Shed, the Firehouse, the Laundry (later the Carpenter & Maintenance Shops), and various garages.



COACH HOUSE AND STABLE

The Coach House was built in 1900 on the site of an original 1870 wooden stable. The building to the right was the Cow Barn, which burned down in 1960.



TEAM OF HORSES AND HOSPITAL WORKERS, CIRCA 1915

These four men with a team of draft horses are posed in front of the Farmworkers' Building (nearby the Coach House). Originally built in 1883-84 as a storehouse and shops, it was converted in 1892 to a dormitory for 50 male patients who were full-time farmworkers.



DRAFT HORSES

In 1918, before the automation of agricultural work in the United States, there were 26 million horses and mules on American farms. The Hospital used these horses in its extensive farming operations. For many of the patients who worked on the farm, the work itself and the relationships with the horses were therapeutic.

Photos: Moore & Schleit Haber. Images of America: Northampton State Hospital (Arcadia Publishing, 2014)

